

House Resolution No. 4004

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens or distinguished themselves through significant personal achievement; and

Whereas, the members now pause to recognize Judge Nannette A. Baker, who was elected by her thirteen peers on the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District as Chief Judge and who will serve a one-year term in that position effective July 1, 2008, making her the first black woman to serve as Chief Judge for a Missouri Court of Appeals; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Baker, who was appointed to the Court of Appeals in November 2004, is the third black judge to serve as Chief Judge of the Eastern District, which handles about half of the state's intermediate appellate case load and covers twenty-five counties plus the City of St. Louis; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Baker served five years as a Circuit Judge in the City of St. Louis before being appointed to the Court of Appeals and twice has been nominated for the Supreme Court; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Baker practiced law at two St. Louis law firms and headed the St. Louis Election Board before taking the bench; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Baker earned her bachelor's degree from The University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, and her law degree from Saint Louis University School of Law; and

Whereas, in her new position, Chief Judge Baker will serve as chairwoman of the 21st and 22nd judicial circuit commissions, which are responsible for selecting a panel of three nominees for judicial vacancies on the St. Louis County and City of St. Louis circuit courts, respectively; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Baker is the proud recipient of the Judge Theodore McMillian Award and the Legal Service Award (Mound City Bar Association) and is included in the Gallery of St. Louis Legal Pioneers; and

Whereas, known and respected for her community service, Chief Judge Baker is on the Board of Directors of Gateway Greening, Inc., serves as Treasurer for the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, and is an active member of the Christ Church Cathedral Episcopal Church:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere congratulations to Chief Judge Baker on the illustrious occasion of being the first black woman to serve as Chief Judge for a Missouri Court of Appeals, with our very best wishes for every success and happiness; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Chief Judge Nannette A. Baker.

Offered by _____
Representative Leonard (Jonas) Hughes, IV
District No. 42

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4004, adopted September 2, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker